

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 5-6 and 10-11 have been amended and claims 12-13 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (b) and (c):

$$(a) 0.03 \leq P \leq 30$$

$$(b) 3 \leq Q \leq 800$$

$$(c) 0.5 \leq Q/P \leq 1000$$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

Claim 2 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships (d), (e) and (f) :

$$(d) 0.03 \leq P \leq 10$$

$$(e) 7 \leq Q \leq 300$$

$$(f) 0.5 \leq Q/P \leq 300$$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size

distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

Claim 3 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships (g), (h) and (i) :

$$(g) 0.03 \leq P \leq 5$$

$$(h) 10 \leq Q \leq 200$$

$$(i) 1 \leq Q/P \leq 150$$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

Claim 4 (original): A flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (j), (k) and (l):

$$(j) 0.5 \leq \text{Dys} \leq 10$$

$$(k) 0.002 \leq \text{Dxs} \leq 10$$

$$(l) 0.5 \leq \text{Dys}/\text{Dxs} \leq 300$$

Dys: point (ml/g) when mercury penetration increment (Log Differential Intrusion) becomes maximum in a mercury penetration method

Dxs: average pore diameter (μm) of Dys

Dys/Dxs: amount of average pore diameter

Claim 5 (currently amended): A flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to [[4]] 3, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, calcium carbonate, zeolite, magnesium phosphate, and magnesium carbonate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to [[4]] 3, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, zeolite, and magnesium phosphate.

Claim 7 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (m) and (n):

$$(a) 0.03 \leq P \leq 30$$

$$(e) 3 \leq Q \leq 300$$

$$(m) 0.01 \leq R \leq 30$$

$$(n) 0.5 \leq S \leq 300$$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

R: average particle diameter (μm) of particles measured by electron micrograph

S: porosity

S= BET specific surface area Q (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method/ specific surface area Q1 (m^2/g) calculated from average particle diameter R of particles measured by electron micrograph.

Claim 8 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (o) and (t):

$$(a) 0.03 \leq P \leq 30$$

$$(e) 3 \leq Q \leq 300$$

$$(o) 0.01 \leq R \leq 10$$

$$(t) 0.5 \leq S \leq 100$$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

R: average particle diameter (μm) of particles measured by electron micrograph

S: porosity

S= BET specific surface area Q (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method/ specific surface area Q1 (m^2/g) calculated from average particle diameter R of particles measured by electron micrograph.

Claim 9 (original): A flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (u) and (v) :

$$(a) 0.03 \leq P \leq 30$$

$$(e) 3 \leq Q \leq 300$$

$$(u) 0.01 \leq R \leq 5$$

(v) $0.5 < S \leq 10$

P: average particle diameter (μm) measured by SALD-2000A laser type particle size distribution meter

Q: BET specific surface area (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method

R: average particle diameter (μm) of particles measured by electron micrograph

S: porosity

$S = \frac{Q}{Q_1}$ BET specific surface area Q (m^2/g) measured according to the nitrogen adsorption method/ specific surface area Q_1 (m^2/g) calculated from average particle diameter R of particles measured by electron micrograph.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A flower thinning agent according to any one of claims [[1 to 9]] 1-3 and 7-9, wherein the additive is at least one kind selected from condensed phosphoric acid and a salt thereof, lecithin, sterol, amino acid, and sucrose fatty acid ester.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A flower thinning agent according to any one of claims [[1 to 10]] 1-3 and 7-9, wherein an amount of the additive is 0.005 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the inorganic compound of poor water solubility.

Claim 12 (new): A flower thinning agent according to claim 4, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, calcium carbonate, zeolite, magnesium phosphate, and magnesium carbonate.

Claim 13 (new): A flower thinning agent according to claim 4, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, zeolite, and magnesium phosphate.